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CLAIMS

Amended claims follow:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for handling unregistered callers in a voice recognition framework, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) ~~—determining whether a user is registered;~~
  - (b) ~~—executing a registration process if it is determined that the user is not registered;~~
  - and
  - (e) ~~—receiving and recognizing utterances representative of information from the user during the registration process; and~~  
wherein the information includes billing information;  
wherein the billing information is selected from the group consisting of a billing address and credit card data, where the billing address includes a city in which the user resides;  
wherein the information further includes at least one phone number of the user
  - (d) ~~—recognizing the utterances for the purpose of providing a service to the user.~~
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the information includes a gender of the user.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)

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7. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the information includes preferences.
8. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the preferences are selected from the group consisting of personalization information, data relating to a stock portfolio of the user, and sports of interest to the user.
9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the preferences include personalization information, data relating to a stock portfolio of the user, and sports of interest to the user.
10. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the information is entered by the user utilizing a computer coupled to a network.
11. (Original) The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the network includes the Internet.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the information is entered verbally utilizing a telephone by way of an attendant.
14. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the information is used when providing the service.
15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising the step of presenting promotion information to the user during the registration process.
16. (Cancelled)

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17. A computer program product for handling unregistered callers in a voice recognition framework, comprising:
- (a) — computer code for determining whether a user is registered;
  - (b) — computer code for executing a registration process if it is determined that the user is not registered; and
  - (c) — computer code for receiving and recognizing utterances representative of information from the user during the registration process; and  
wherein the information includes billing information;  
wherein the billing information is selected from the group consisting of a billing address and credit card data, where the billing address includes a city in which the user resides;  
wherein the information further includes at least one phone number of the user
  - (d) — ~~computer code for recognizing the utterances for the purpose of providing a service to the user.~~
18. A system for handling unregistered callers in a voice recognition framework, comprising:
- (a) — logic means for determining whether a user is registered;
  - (b) — logic means for executing a registration process if it is determined that the user is not registered; and
  - (c) — logic means for receiving utterances from the user; and  
wherein the information includes billing information;  
wherein the billing information is selected from the group consisting of a billing address and credit card data, where the billing address includes a city in which the user resides;  
wherein the information further includes at least one phone number of the user
  - (d) — ~~logic for recognizing the utterances for the purpose of providing a service to the user.~~

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19. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the handling unregistered callers is managed by a platform comprised of a presentation layer, an application logic layer, an information access services layer, and a telecom infrastructure.
20. (New) The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the application logic layer provides a set of reusable application components and a software engine for the execution thereof, the information access services layer provides access to modular value-added services, and the presentation layer provides a mechanism for communicating with the user.
21. (New) The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the platform enables developers to create custom services to extend the platform.
22. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the determining whether a user is registered comprises gathering information relating to the user from a first database and comparing the information against a second database of registered users.
23. (New) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the information relating to the user is gathered via call description records.
24. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a plurality of services is provided to the user including a nationwide business finder service, a nationwide driving directions service, a nationwide traffic updates service, a worldwide weather service, a news service, a sports service, a stock quotes service, and an infotainment service.
25. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein directions are given to the user explaining the registration process and a process by which the user may exit the registration process.

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26. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein executing the registration process comprises receiving an account number that identifies a telecommunication carrier from which the user was transferred to the registration process, establishing a unique user account number for the user, and establishing a personal identification number for the user.
27. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the registration process includes returning the user to a main menu after the registration process is complete, and upon receipt and detection of a keyword.